

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 00708 091519Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----033795 100551Z /17

R 091412Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 489
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 708

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, XF, IS, LE
SUBJ: SAIQA ELEMENTS SIGHTED BY UNMO'S IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

1. FIRST CONFIRMED SIGHTING OF SAIQA ELEMENTS IN MAROUN
ER RAS BY UNMO'S OCCURED ON MARCH 7 ACCORDING TO UN
SOURCE. THOSE SAIQA FORCES WERE REPORTED TO BE STILL IN
TOWN AS OF MARCH 9. SOURCE COULD NOT PROVIDE ANY FURTHER
DETAILS AS TO NUMBER OF SAIQA PERSONNEL SIGHTED. VILLAGERS
HAVE TOLD UNMO'S THAT SAIQA IS ALSO IN BINT JBAIL.

2. UNMO'S TRAVELING SOUTH FROM BEIRUT RECENTLY HAVE ALSO
SEEN SAIQA FORCES AS FAR SOUTH AS FIVE KILOMETERS FROM
NAQUORA ACCORDING TO SOURCE.

3. COMMENTS. WE ARE NOT CERTAIN HOW UNMO'S CAN IDENTIFY
SAIQA ELEMENTS BUT OUR SOURCE HAS, UP TO NOW, BEEN RELUCTANT
TO PASS EARLIER RUMORS OF SAIQA PRESENCE IN MAROUN
ER RAS. HE CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD QUESTIONED UNMO'S
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THOROUGHLY AND WAS SASTISFIED THAT SAIQA FORCES ARE NOW
THERE AND WILL REPORT THIS TO UNNY.
NEWLIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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